

COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026
7:00 P.M.

Mayor:	Robert A. Sabosik
Council President:	Joseph Veni
Council Member:	Antoinette DePaola
Council Member:	Valerie Coulson
Acting Council President:	Charlene Archer
Council Member:	Joseph Furmato
Council Member:	William Stevenson
Borough Attorney:	Greg P. McGucken, Esq.
Borough Administrator:	Frank Pannucci

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

STATEMENT BY MAYOR SABOSIK: Pursuant to the applicable portions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been given. Notice of this meeting of the Governing Body has been posted in the corridor of the Municipal Building, published in the January 9, 2026, edition of *The Ocean Star* and published in *The Asbury Park Press* on January 9, 2026.

A. WORKSHOP

1. Committee Reports

Council Member Furmato stated the following: “I got an email this afternoon that Beaver Dam Bridge is going to be closed through December, starting this September. They are going to fix what they call thermal expansion, which is how the bridge expands when it gets hot. But that bridge has been there for fifty years, and we really haven't had a problem with it until they started working on it. So, they are going to work on it again. Let's hope everything goes well this time. We have the sanitary line on Sunset that had a problem. It's been going on for about a year and a half now, and the contractor has to do the whole job over because the pipe has a bow in it, and the water isn't moving as fast as it's supposed to. Slade Dale, we are having trees cleaned up. There's a lot of trees that have fallen down. There are a lot of leaners that have to come down before the winter comes. There is a new sidewalk program. Ocean County is going to be giving towns five hundred thousand dollar grants to put sidewalks in. The Mayor and a few of us have been hounding the county for the last two or three years to have them do sidewalks, and I think we're kind of their test, so it's going to happen. It looks like we are going to fill in the sidewalks that are missing on Bridge Avenue and Beaver Dam Road first, and then we are going to go over by Ocean Road School, which we have a grant for to do two roads over there, Burnt Tavern and Old Farm Road. We have money to do those two roads' sidewalks. By next year, or the year after that, we are going to probably fill in a lot more over there. We have some bidding going out this month for Arnold Avenue for pedestrian safety for the signs that tell people when to cross the street, so you don't get hit by a car.”

Council Member DePaola stated the following: “On behalf of Chief Leonhardt, I'd like to inform you of some things that are going on with our police department and community policing program. First up was the police youth camp, which was successfully completed this summer. The program gave local children an opportunity to interact with our officers in a positive setting while participating in a variety of activities and learning more about law enforcement and public safety. And I will say that my son went to police youth camp years and years ago, and it has grown tremendously with a lot of the offerings to the children improving with time. I would like to thank the officers who volunteered their time to work in the summer

program. It was really very well done. National Night Out was held last week. It was another successful outing in our community. Residents had the opportunity to meet with members of our local emergency services in a relaxed and family-friendly environment. We had a lot of county offices that were there, the prosecutor's office, the library, Ocean County Parks and Rec, among some of the others. It was very well attended, and a lovely event for our town. Throughout July and August, our officers have continued to maintain a visible presence throughout the borough, particularly in our parks, business district and other experiencing increased summertime activity. Now we have back-to-school safety because, as we all know, back to school is approaching quickly, and the police department would like to remind our residents and motorists that increased pedestrian, bike, and vehicle traffic should be expected around our schools. Motorists are reminded to slow down and remain alert in school zones. Watch for children walking and riding bicycles to and from school. Obey crossing guards and posted school zone traffic regulations. Use extra caution around school buses and remember that passing a stopped school bus displaying flashing red lights is prohibited. And allow additional travel time during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal periods. And parents are also encouraged to review safe walking and bicycle practices with their children before the start of school. Our police department will make sure that our officers have an increased presence around the schools during the opening weeks and to assist with traffic and help ensure a safety transition back to school. With e-bikes and bike safety, we continue to see increased use of e-bikes throughout the borough, particularly among younger riders. And the police department would like to remind parents and riders to familiarize themselves with New Jersey's e-bike laws and our local regulations. They will be enforcing the law, especially now that schools are going to be opening up. And as summer comes to a close, the police department will transition its focus toward the start of the school year while continuing our traffic safety and community policing initiatives throughout the borough. The police department would like to thank our residents for their continued cooperation and support and look forward to a safe and successful start to the 2026-2027 school year.”

Council Member Coulson stated the following: “The Rec Department is having a movie night on August 28th, beginning at 6pm. The borough will hold this at the Maxim Avenue Beach. There will be a double feature. Last year, we did Jaws. This year, we're doing An American Tail for the littles and National Treasure for all. The Ocean County 250th celebration trailer will be on site. This is a sixteen-foot interactive trailer featuring hands-on activities that interpret the American Revolution. This is all because of our 250th anniversary of the country. So, bring your beach chairs and your snacks, and come enjoy the double feature. Our Fall Festival will take place at Riverfront Park on October 10th, beginning at 4PM. There will be music, food trucks, and to end the evening, we're going to have the fireworks show, and it's going to be bigger and better than ever. Our rain date is October 11th. There are three openings left in the recreation program. If anybody would like to register, just call the Rec Center. And, last week. The Mayor and I along with the Girl Scouts and Mark Lane went to unveil the new Gaga ball pit, designed and constructed by Madison, Maggie and Olivia as their community service project for the Girl Scouts Silver Award. Congratulations to them. And for anybody that wants to know what a gaga pit is, it's a waist-high wooden pit and you use a ball just like old dodge ball, only you are only allowed to hit below the knee. That's the gaga ball. Seems to be all the rage with the kids. So, we now have a gaga ball pit over in Riverfront Park. And a big shout-out to Mark Lane and the DPW crew for helping the girls bring their vision to fruition. And lastly, I want to mention Joe Furmato, myself, and Toni went to the crop swap last Thursday night. This is, uh, the Point Pleasant Borough Garden Club has been hosting a crop swap on Thursday evening. You can bring your overflow of fruits, vegetables, and/or herbs over to the Pollinator Garden and swap them for things that you didn't grow. And if you would like to even just come and take something when you didn't grow anything, that's fine. At the end of the evening, last week or the next day rather, they donated the leftovers to St. Gregory's Pantry, which I think is a great idea. So, stop by. They work really hard. It was great. We really enjoyed stopping by.”

Council Member Stevenson stated the following: “The legislature is currently on their summer recess and will be returning sometime during September, so I have nothing there. As for the Board of Ed, as you know, school starts in a few weeks, and the school’s competition band have started their practices and camps, so Go Panthers.”

Acting Council President Archer stated the following: “First I want to thank Point Pleasant Police Department and First Aid, especially, Officer Stowe and Michaela Stevenson of the First Aid. On August 9th, my stepdad fell, and he hit his head really bad. He started bleeding on the head. So, Officer Stowe got to the house really quickly, and I appreciate that. He started giving medical service. And then Michaela of the Point Pleasant First Aid got there. They got him transported to the Hospital, where he got a CAT scan, and happy to say he had no internal injuries. But still, it was very scary when he fell because he was bleeding really bad, as I know head wounds usually do. But it really made us all nervous, and I do appreciate all the quick response from our first responders. Open Space, we are on hiatus. Our next meeting is September 23rd, 2026 at the Riverfront Park at Bennett's Cabin. Also, speaking of Riverfront Park, our memorial trees, we have three now at Riverfront Park. They look great. So, if you walk around on Riverfront Park, there's two by Bennett's Cabin on that walkway right there, and there's also one by the pavilion, and they look awesome. So, the memorial trees are a hit. Everybody seems to really enjoy them and like them because it does give a memorial to a family member who passed away who might have enjoyed that park, or you might enjoy that park, and it's nice to see a tribute to your loved one.”

Mayor Sabosik stated the following: “Tonight, we have to continue the saga of JCP&L. They are putting in for a twelve percent increase effective 2028. They have said they are going to create a new infrastructure, but they have no definitive plans for improvements anywhere. So, I've done an analysis. JCP&L has outages two or three times longer than PSE&G. They have an average of 1.7 outages for two and a half hours, while PSE&G has .6 outages in one hour. JCP&L response to my questions is, "We have stronger storms than Northern Jersey." Which I find kind of interesting because they have more trees, and the storms that they have up there have more downed trees than we have down here. So, I had to point out to them I did not think that was a valid reasoning. They have not met the reliability standards in the state of New Jersey for 2023-2024. BPU has fined JCP&L \$44.1 million dollars for failure to provide adequate services to the customer base. This year alone, they are spending a billion dollars. Once again, I have asked them where it's going. They have responded to enhanced reliability. Well, I don't know about everybody here, but it's certainly not in Point Pleasant. So, stay tuned, folks, as I continue my positive dialogue with the hierarchy of JCP&L, whose parent corporation just got fined again in Ohio for millions of dollars for a non-compliance. But we won't go into Ohio problems. We'll stay in New Jersey. Update on New Jersey REAL Rules, which is the Resilient Environmental and Landscapes. They want to go four feet above our current rate for FEMA. New Jersey Conference of Mayors have selected a bipartisan committee of mayors to discuss a plan that could be beneficial to both sides of the aisle as well as both sides of the state. Delaware River doesn't have the same problems that Ocean County and Monmouth County has. Let me explain. Delaware River lot sizes are one to two acres. Going up another four feet does not create the problems of switchbacks. Going into a house, a switchback is where you have an entrance, and you have stairs coming this way, a rest area coming back, another rest platform coming back. When you have a fifty-by-a-hundred-foot lot, it creates a major problem for the populace of Ocean and Monmouth County, whether they are elderly, young or old, handicapped, whatever the case may be. They are creating a negativity for our residents. They have postponed the implementation of this rule for one year. I also will keep everybody advised as my committee report gets heated up as we continue to talk to DEP people. Mayor's Hours this month will be September eighth through five thirty and six thirty. And I'm very happy to report this program has been part of this administration for twelve years. These meetings right here at Town Hall enable citizens to come and meet myself and council members to discuss anything on their minds in a very relaxed atmosphere. In fact, I've had other towns come out, watch the program, and implement it. You know, one topic that is an example of what we've been hearing is tax dollars spent spending ratio, which means where does the tax money go? Who handles the money? Is it the county? Is it the school? Is it the town? Well,

we're very proud of the fact that the municipality of Point Pleasant runs your town with approximately twenty-two percent of the total collected revenue, which ranks Point Pleasant as one of the most efficient towns in Ocean County. One of our neighboring town, Brick Town, takes thirty percent of the total tax dollars of property taxes to run the town. Once again, this fact shows we're an established team of people who do have lively conversations to come together to run an efficient town that everybody loves and wants to invest in. Last point I have tonight is something I know most of us care about. Comcast is going to have competition. Optimum is definitely coming into town. We are finalizing the contract with them. Hopefully, it will be months, not years, before we have another service provider for our residents. We are one of the only towns to be able to procure this service. I want to thank members of council who spent numerous hours talking to Optimum about the advantages of coming to Point Pleasant Borough.”

B. MINUTES

1. **Approve Council Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2026.**

MOTION: Approve Minutes

MADE: Stevenson

SECOND: DePaola

Mr. Veni: Yes
Ms. Archer: Abstain

Ms. DePaola: Yes
Mr. Furmato: Yes

Ms. Coulson: Abstain
Mr. Stevenson: Yes

CARRIES:

C. ORDINANCES

1. **Final Reading/Public Hearing**
Ordinance No. 2026-12 Repealing and Replacing Chapter 7-25 Entitled “Designated Handicapped Parking on School Street,” Section 25.4, Entitled “Penalties for Violations”

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

MOTION: Adopt Ordinance

MADE: Coulson

SECOND: DePaola

Mr. Veni: Absent
Ms. Archer: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Yes
Mr. Furmato: Yes

Ms. Coulson: Yes
Mr. Stevenson: Yes

CARRIES:

2. **Introduction**

Ordinance No. 2026-13 Creating and Establishing Borough Code Chapter 7A-21, Entitled “Schedule XXI: Resident Handicapped On-Street Parking Spaces” and Granting the Placement of a Resident Handicapped On-Street Parking Space in Front of the Property Commonly Known as 1113 Barton Avenue

MOTION: Adopt Ordinance

MADE: Archer

SECOND: Stevenson

Mr. Veni: Absent

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Stevenson: Yes

CARRIES:

3. **Introduction**

Ordinance No. 2026-14 Vacating All Right, Title, and Interest of the Borough of Point Pleasant in Certain Lands Adjoining State Highway Route 88 and No Longer Needed by the NJDOT for a Public Highway

MOTION: Adopt Ordinance

MADE: Coulson

SECOND: Furmato

Mr. Veni: Absent

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Stevenson: Yes

CARRIES:

**D. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION (Resolutions, Consent Agenda and Authorizations Only)
Five (5) Minute Limit Per Person**

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Ordinance No. 530. An Ordinance to establish by-laws to govern the organization and procedures of the Borough Council for meetings and deliberations. Section 5. Public Participation. Each member of the public shall keep his or her remarks brief, pertinent to the issues being discussed and shall not exceed a time period of five (5) minutes in order to adequately provide all members of the public with the opportunity to address the Governing Body consistent with good order and efficiency.

MOTION: Open the meeting to the public

MADE: Coulson

SECOND: DePaola

APPROVED: All in Favor

Acting Council President Archer opened the meeting to the public.

Resident: Sharon Hudson – Riverwood Park: “This is the first meeting I’ve ever been to, and I want to thank all of you for the things that you’re doing. My kids also went to the police camp, which was amazing. My name is Sharon Hudson, and I’m here regarding the approved development on Lot 36. The appropriate municipal reviewing authority should ensure that the engineering basis for Lot 36 approval is clearly established on the permanent record. I understand the application has already been approved. This statement is intended to place serious engineering, stormwater, and groundwater concerns regarding Lot 36 on the permanent public record and to request answers before construction proceeds. The plans document distinct soil modeling in the low-lying portion of Lot 36. That raises an important question regarding the seasonal high water table and whether the approved drainage design provides the required separation from groundwater. The plan shows a subsurface drainage system approximately two and a half feet below grade, at a zero point zero percent slope, and approximately ten feet from the neighboring residential boundary. Point Pleasant Borough’s own development regulations require stormwater to be controlled in a manner that will not adversely affect existing or proposed properties. That requirement makes the drainage design for Lot 36 particularly important given the documented soil conditions and the proposed subsurface system on a street with no storm drain. The town engineer should establish the seasonal high water table elevation used in the design, identify the testing supporting that elevation, and explain how this drainage system satisfies the applicable NJDEP requirements. This is also a serious concern because lot 36 is completely landlocked on a street with no drain. If the drainage system becomes submerged, reaches capacity, or fails during a major storm, where does that water legally go? What is the defined emergency overflow route, and what prevents water from flowing toward neighboring properties that share a 12-foot access easement, or worse, the surrounding infrastructure and roadbed? The record should also include the hydrologic and hydraulic analysis supporting approval. What demonstrates that the development will not increase stormwater impacts to neighboring properties or shared infrastructure compared with the applicable pre-construction condition? Will they be the same as they were, or worse? Finally, the applicant owns the adjacent parcel to his own property and appears to have additional space available. If a safer drainage configuration on such a large property with greater separation was possible, why was it not used? Why was it put so close to the boundary? What specific legal or physical hardship required the approved configuration the way it is? These concerns are important because once this drainage system is buried, so correcting the groundwater or drainage problem becomes substantially, substantially more difficult and extremely costly. The board should ensure that the engineering basis for the lot 36 approval is clearly established in the permanent public record before construction proceeds. Because these concerns are being raised before the construction, what steps are the township taking to ensure that the approved design for lot 36 does not create a foreseeable stormwater or infrastructure problem affecting neighboring properties or shared municipal infrastructure? Thank you. I also have questions. Number one, was the soil and groundwater testing performed during a period representative of the seasonal high water table, or was it during the dry season?”

Mayor Sabosik: Obviously, this is a very strong report from the heart. But this is really for another part of the agenda that has to be approved first, the resolutions. So, we are going to have public comment when you can come back and ask. What I’m going to say to you is that this report is very detailed. I am going to go to legal, the town administrator and the town engineer after the meeting to look at this for you.”

Seeing no hands, acting Council President Archer closed this portion of the meeting.

F. RESOLUTIONS

Five (5) Minute Limit Per Person

“All matters listed under item “Resolutions” will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. If discussion is desired on any item, this item will be removed and will be considered separately.”

- 1. (187-2026) Bills and Claims**
- 2. (188-2026) Void Check Resolution**
- 3. (189-2026) Declaring an Emergency for a Sanitary Sewer Break in Front of 1414 Dorsett Dock Road – COF #2026-1289**

The bills for 2026 are to be paid as presented. The bills and claims list is on file in the Clerk’s Office and can be reviewed Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and on Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MOTION: Adopt Resolutions

MADE: Coulson

SECOND: Furmato

Mr. Veni: Absent

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Stevenson: Yes

CARRIES:

G. CONSENT AGENDA

“All matters listed under item “Consent Agenda” will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. If discussion is desired on any item, this item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.”

- 1. (190-2026) Authorize Adjustment and/or Refund on Certain Tax or Water/Sewer Accounts**
- 2. (191-2026) Authorizing the Issuance of Duplicate Tax Sale Certificates Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:5-52.1**
- 3. (192-2026) Canceling Taxes and Authorizing a Refund - Wack**
- 4. (193-2026) Canceling Taxes and Authorizing a Refund - Porcelli**
- 5. (194-2026) Canceling Taxes and Authorizing a Refund – Stortz**
- 6. (195-2026) Canceling Taxes and Authorizing a Refund - Schreck**
- 7. (196-2026) Canceling Taxes and Authorizing a Refund - Trubee**
- 8. (197-2026) Canceling Taxes and Authorizing a Refund - Zabriski**
- 9. (198-2026) Canceling Taxes and Authorizing a Refund - Morin**
- 10. (199-2026) Canceling Taxes and Authorizing a Refund - Matt Robinson Lane**
- 11. (200-2026) Canceling Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 – Garrison**
- 12. (201-2026) Canceling Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 – Justyn**
- 13. (202-2026) Canceling Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 – Grogan**
- 14. (203-2026) Canceling Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 – Nickerson**
- 15. (204-2026) Authorize Recreation Department Refunds**
- 16. (205-2026) Authorize Recreation Department to Refund Background Check Payment**
- 17. (206-2026) Authorize Recreation Department to Rehire Part-time Seasonals**
- 18. (207-2026) Authorize Refund Escrow Fee – 909 River Oaks Lane**

19. (208-2026) Authorize RVE for Engineering Services for the Drainage Improvements Along Briarwood Lane Project and Authorization to Bid – COF #2026-129
20. (209-2026) Rejecting the Bids Received for the Replacement of Well No. 5
21. (210-2026) Rescinding Resolution #148-2020 and Confirming the Finalized 2025 Length of Service Award List (LOSAP)
22. (211-2026) Authorizing Release of Inspection Escrow Fees for Property Known and Designated as Block 136, Lot 1.04 a/k/a 604 Ocean Road
23. (212-2026) Approving the Following Applications:
- Lavender & Sage Hair Co., 2907 Bridge Avenue, Autumn Market & Small Business Showcase on Sunday, October 4, 2026, from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.
 - Bay Head Shores Property Owners Association, Social Affair Permit, Annual Labor Day Celebration, Saturday, September 5, 2026, from 2:00 PM – 10:00 PM (rain date September 6, 2026).
 - Idle Hour Group LLC, Social Affair Permit, Charity Wrestling Match, Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM (rain date September 19, 2026).
 - Idle Hour Group LLC, Social Affair Permit, Fundraiser, Sunday, October 11, 2026, from 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM (rain date October 17, 2026).
24. (213-2026) Confirming Personnel Promotion and Salary Adjustment:
- Michelle Kraus is promoted to Grade 4, Step 9, Principal Clerk Typist, with an annual salary of \$78,732.00 as per the Clerical Teamsters Local Union #469 Contract, effective August 1, 2026.
 - Sharon Morgan is promoted to Grade 6, Step 6, Tax Assessor, with an annual salary of \$128,757.00 per the Transportation Workers Union of America Local Union #220 Contract, effective August 1, 2026.
25. (214-2026) Confirming Personnel Appointments:
- Jennifer Trudeau is appointed to the position of part-time Crossing Guard, effective August 17, 2026, at the rate of \$27.77 per hour, as per the current Teamsters Local Union No. 469 Collective Bargaining Agreement.
 - Rosana Vitello is appointed to the position of substitute, part-time Crossing Guard, effective August 17, 2026, at the rate of \$27.77 per hour, as per the current Teamsters Local Union No. 469 Collective Bargaining Agreement.
 - Andrea Schatzman is appointed to the position of substitute, part-time Crossing Guard, effective August 17, 2026, at the rate of \$27.77 per hour, as per the current Teamsters Local Union No. 469 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

MOTION: Adopt Consent Agenda

MADE: DePaola

SECOND: Coulson

Mr. Veni: Absent

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Stevenson: Yes

CARRIES:

G. AUTHORIZATIONS

1. Authorize Gregory P. McGuckin, Borough Attorney, to submit a letter to the BPU to start the application process with Optimum for cable services.
2. Authorize Gregory P. McGuckin, Borough Attorney, to authorize suit against the Bonding Company for Duga Construction for the DPW roof.

MOTION: Approve Authorizations

MADE: DePaola

SECOND: Coulson

Mr. Veni: Absent

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Stevenson: Yes

CARRIES:

H. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

5 Minute Limit Per Person. Ordinance No. 530. An Ordinance to establish by-laws to govern the organization and procedures of the Borough Council for meetings and deliberations. Section 5. Public Participation. Each member of the public shall keep his or her remarks brief, pertinent to the issues being discussed and shall not exceed a time period of five (5) minutes in order to adequately provide all members of the public with the opportunity to address the Governing Body consistent with good order and efficiency.

MOTION: Open the meeting to the public

MADE: Coulson

SECOND: Stevenson

APPROVED: All in Favor

Mayor Sabosik opened the meeting to the public.

Resident, Sharon Hudson: “I have some questions that I would like to put on the record and have them answered by the appropriate person. Number one, was the soil and groundwater testing performed during a period representative of the actual seasonal high water table or during dry season? What data establishes the elevation used in the lot 36 design? Number two, has a drainage pipe approximately two and a half feet below grade and at 0.0 percent slope satisfies the applicable NJDEP separation requirements from the seasonal high water table? If soil surrounding the proposed drainage system is saturated, what analysis demonstrates that the system will have adequate infiltration and storage capacity under those conditions, especially since soil modeling was found? What analysis was performed to evaluate groundwater mounding and potential lateral migration of groundwater or stormwater toward neighboring properties if the surrounding soil does become saturated? Because Lot 36 is landlocked, what is the defined and legally authorized emergency overflow path if the system becomes submerged, clogs, or reaches capacity on a street with no storm drain? Does the approved Lot 36 design comply with Point Pleasant Borough's own stormwater requirements, including the requirement that stormwater drainage never adversely affect existing or proposed properties? Where is the engineering analysis demonstrating that compliance? What

hydrologic and hydraulic analysis demonstrates that the approved development will not increase stormwater impacts to neighboring properties that share a twelve-foot access easement or downstream infrastructure compared with the applicable pre-construction condition? How can you ensure that it will not be worse? What steps is the township taking to ensure that the approved design for Lot 36 does not create a foreseeable stormwater or infrastructure problem affecting neighboring properties and the shared twelve-foot access easement or municipal infrastructure. Thank you. Please include questions and answers in the official record. Thank you.”

Mr. Pannucci: “Just so you know, whatever questions you have, and you asked us about the neighboring property next to you, our engineer is here too. We have already put you in touch with him, and he's going to help you from that point forward, answering whatever you have and talking through the plans of the property. None of us are engineers up here, so clearly, we are not going to answer those questions. We are the governing body that will approve or disapprove plans or buildings. But our engineer will be more than happy to help you going forward and answer whatever he could possibly answer for you.”

Sharon Hudson: “Those plans are signed by the town, so that is why I'm here.”

Mr. Pannucci: “But the governing body doesn't do that. That is Planning Board approval, and the Engineers. So, we are going to put you in touch with John, and you can ask whatever you need to ask.”

Sharon Hudson: “But I would like those questions answered on the record, the questions and the answers, because I think it is important for our records.”

Mr. Pannucci: “Well, the engineer will answer the questions for you. The governing body does not answer those questions. We are not engineers up here, so it is impossible to answer any of those questions. But our Engineer will be happy to take care of you.”

The Borough clerk took copies of her questions and stated that she will forward them to the Borough Engineer so he can take a look at them and get back to her with answers.

Resident: 1318 Curtis Avenue – “My name is Michael Vidal. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak tonight. I'm here to ask Point Pleasant Borough to do something very simple but very important, stand up for the constitutional rights of the citizens you represent. Every one of you took an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of New Jersey. That oath means something. It doesn't mean defending only the constitutional rights that are politically popular. It means defending all of them, including the Second Amendment. Right now, New Jersey requires a law-abiding citizen who wants to exercise their right to carry a firearm to spend several hundred dollars before they can do so. There's the cost of the firearm, ammunition, mandatory training, fingerprinting, background check expenses, and then there's an excessive two hundred dollar permit-to-carry fee imposed by the state. Of that two hundred dollars, a hundred and fifty dollars is paid directly to the municipality of the applicant. That fee is unconstitutional. The government should not put a price tag on the exercise of a fundamental constitutional right. We don't charge people a fee to vote. We don't charge people a fee to practice their religion. We don't charge people a fee to speak their mind or petition their government, as I'm doing right now. So why should the Second Amendment be treated differently? What is that one hundred and fifty dollars for? Our taxes already fund administrative processing and filing. Citizens are not charged hundreds of dollars for motor vehicle accident reports or to file theft reports. We're not charged excessive fees to request public information. There isn't even an administrative fee if you're arrested and processed, but for some inexplicable reason, we are charged for permission to protect ourselves. I'm sure you can see the real issue here. We are charged an excessive fee to exercise our Second Amendment rights because, because anti-gun Trenton wants to punish us financially or prevent us outright from obtaining our permit to carry due to personal financial restrictions. And let's be clear, this isn't a one-time fee. It's two hundred dollars every two years. This isn't some radical idea that I'm asking Point Pleasant Borough to invent. At least eighteen other local municipalities throughout New Jersey have already

passed resolutions addressing this very issue and are refunding the hundred and fifty dollar municipal portion of the permit-to-carry fee to applicants. I have brought copies of the resolution being used by two of those municipalities, and I'll provide them for the council's consideration. So, I have a very simple question. Why not Point Pleasant Borough? Why are other towns standing up for their residents' constitutional rights while we're sitting on the sidelines? This isn't about whether you personally like guns. It isn't about Republicans or Democrats. It shouldn't be about politics. It's about whether you believe that a law-abiding citizen should have to pay the government for permission to exercise a right that the Constitution already guarantees. It's about whether the oath you took when you accepted this office actually means what you swore it means. I'm not asking you to eliminate any lawful background check, training requirement, fingerprinting requirement, or any measure of safety. The constitutionality of all that is a different debate for a different time. I'm simply asking you to return the one hundred and fifty dollar municipal portion of the fee. Other municipalities have already decided that is the right thing to do. Point Pleasant Borough can do the same. And I want to be completely transparent about something else. I am documenting this effort and the process of getting this resolution considered by the borough on a widely watched YouTube channel. This is a hot topic locally, and the issue in general is on the national stage. So, this isn't going to be something that happens quietly in this room and disappears tomorrow. The people watching won't just be from Point Pleasant. They'll be from throughout New Jersey and across the country. They'll get to see whether Point Pleasant Borough chooses to stand with its law-abiding citizens and the Constitution, or whether you choose to continue to collect this fee. I sincerely hope they see Point Pleasant Borough choose to lead alongside other municipalities that have already taken this stand. I want everyone who pays attention to be as proud of this community as I am. You have an opportunity to do more than talk about constitutional rights. You have an opportunity to stand up for them. I respectfully ask this council to adopt a similar resolution, refund the one hundred and fifty dollar municipal portion of the permit-to-carry fee, and demonstrate that in Point Pleasant Borough, constitutional rights are not privileges to be purchased from the government. Thank you."

Mayor Sabosik: "Very good presentation. Can I see one of those ordinances that you have? We will definitely look into this."

Mr. Pannucci: "This was an excellent presentation. I think out of five hundred and sixty-four towns in the state of New Jersey, just about twenty are starting to do this now. This is a fairly new movement. What I would just recommend to the governing body is to let us look at these other towns' ordinances. I think some towns have those costs baked into how they're doing their background checks. I don't know if it will be a heavy lift for us to get rid of that fee or not. I don't think so. But that's a big what if. Let me take a peek at these, and then council can consider it for the next meeting."

Borough Attorney McGucken: "Mr. Mayor, if I can, we have actually addressed this in some other municipalities. By statute, you have to collect it, but the resident is asking, can you refund it? And you legally can if that's what the council wishes to do."

Mayor Sabosik: "So basically, we have to take the two hundred dollars in per state statute, and then a local ordinance can be implemented to get back the hundred and fifty out of the two hundred."

Borough Attorney McGucken: "You can do it by resolution if the town so desires."

Mayor Sabosik: "Thank you so much for, for bringing this to our attention."

Resident: 2407 Spruce Street: "I would like to commend the police. I walked the dog. I walk him like two miles. It's when I walk the whole route on Moore. I come walking down with the dog because I'm going back home, and all of a sudden, I look, and there's like six to ten cars, parked head on, not like they are supposed to be parked. They were parked into the field. So, I just called up the police and I let them

know. I have never seen signs made that fast. They had the signs saying, "No parking." They went up so fast. So, I just wanted to thank the police. Good job. And that brings me to this second part. I think it's the JV. They have their little training or something behind the middle school. Well, it's kind of the same thing. Instead of parking the way the traffic is supposed to go, the people are parking the other way. So, I am just mentioning this here today."

Megan Jedry: 2714 Shady Glen: "Good evening, Mayor and Council. I am a nineteen-year resident of Point Pleasant, and I want to speak briefly about something I know a lot of residents recently have had questions about. Specifically, the ALPR, the automatic license plate readers, commonly known as Flock, which are the cameras, and the drones. First, I want to say very clearly that I support public safety. I want our police department to have the tools and resources they need to do their jobs, and I appreciate the work our officers do every day to keep our community safe. I actually had the opportunity to meet with the chief last week and talk through some of my questions, and I really appreciated him taking the time to speak with me, so thank you. One thing that became very clear is that we have a new system, and it was implemented in March of this year, or initiated at least in March of this year. So, we're really early in this process, so we don't have a ton of local data yet. And honestly, I think that presents us with a really great opportunity because residents are asking a lot of questions. There is a lot of publicity out there right now, some good, some bad, some not great at all. And I don't think those questions that residents have should be viewed as criticism. I think it's an opportunity for us to educate the community and build trust around a technology that many people don't fully understand. A lot of the questions that people are asking, simply, how does it work? What information is being collected? Who has access to it? How long is the information retained? Can other agencies access it? And most importantly, is it actually helping to make Point Pleasant safer? So, I plan on submitting an OPRA request so I can better understand some of this information myself. I think that we can do something better than residents having to submit those requests or piecemeal information that they're finding from Facebook. So, my thought here is why don't we bring everyone together? I think it would be a fantastic opportunity for the chief members of council and the subject matter experts who understand this technology to host a community town hall specifically about the ALPR cameras and drone technologies. Let the experts explain the technology. Let the chief explain how our department is using it and the safeguards and policies in place to protect our residents' privacy. Let council explain the borough's role and oversight, and most importantly, let residents ask questions. I don't expect our council to have every answer tonight. I don't have every answer either. But I do think that residents deserve to know that their questions are being heard. There are communities around the country right now that are having these exact same conversations. Some are continuing their programs, some are reviewing them, some have decided not to renew their contracts, and some are canceling them altogether. We don't have to jump to any conclusions today, but what is important here is we have an opportunity to do our own homework, look at our own data, and make an informed decision about what's right for Point Pleasant, and I think that's something that we can all agree on. So, my suggestion tonight isn't to turn the cameras off. It is actually much simpler. Let's invite the community in. Let's give residents the information they're asking for. Let them hear directly from the people who know this technology best, and let's have an open conversation about public safety, privacy, effectiveness, and accountability. I think a town hall like that could go a long way toward answering questions and building trust. And frankly, I'd be happy to help get people in the room. I don't think that anybody in this room wants residents googling flock cameras at eleven o'clock at night, coming up with their own conclusions. That's not going to go well. So, let's bring the experts in, let them answer their questions, and let's have the conversation together."

Mr. Pannucci: We'll consider it, but in the meantime, just like you already have, we have a fantastic police chief that has an open door policy. And any resident can go and make an appointment to talk to him whenever they like, and he'd be more than happy to, just like you did. And, Chief Leonhardt is more than willing to do that, and he does an excellent job."

Megan Jedry: “He certainly did.”

Council Member DePaola: “ And I have to say, I don't know where all our residents are, or who they are voicing their concerns to, but honestly, I have not received one inquiry about it. So, this is the first time I'm hearing that it's an issue. So, it's definitely something we will talk to the chief about and get more information.

Mayor Sabosik: “And I personally don't like the name because it's basically replaced the plate reader cars that we had, and the technology was basically the same. And yes, we've had some success with some police cases that I can't go into without the chief's okay, obviously. But we'll take this under advisement. As you know, this council is very open to dialogue. And the Mayor's Hours is a town meeting. Anybody can come one-on-one. I've been doing it for twelve years. I have a lot of people who have come in. They have a lot of good questions. Do I have all the answers? Not that night, but I do get back to the people. So, it has worked out very well. Council, I don't know if you want to say anything on this topic?”

Borough Attorney McGucken: “Until a couple of months ago, I never heard of a flock camera. I think that goes for most governing bodies in the state of New Jersey. There are organizations and groups that have raised this issue, particularly on social media, and have fermented a lot of discussion about it in certain circles. This is probably the third governing body meeting I've been at where it's come up. There is pending legislation already to hopefully limit the retention of data. The Attorney General's office has already instituted guidelines, and the police departments are required to follow them by law, as to what they can be used, and not used for. And it is, as the mayor indicated, not much different than what the police have had for years, which is the data reading in their terminals in the police cars checking license plates. It is actually quicker than in the old days. We had to call in a plate, and by the time you do it, somebody could be gone or somebody could have had an accident. So, it is a statewide issue that's being discussed. I believe you will see some legislation coming out of Trenton on it. I know that I've been involved in some discussions in that regard. The Attorney General guidelines right now I think are pretty good. I think there's some improvement that could be made. And I think that was indicated with the chief is willingness to sit down with anybody to discuss it. I think you are going to see over the next few months that it will be addressed at a statewide level, which is really how it has to be. You can't do it in individual towns. It's got to be done at the state level. And I think the attention is now being drawn to it, and I think you're going to see that.”

Mayor Sabosik: “And I think the reason why the towns went with this was basically, economics. The stationary of tax saving money for the towns. So, we will investigate this. Thank you for your input.”

Megan Jedry: “I have one more separate note, if you don't mind. I do want to bring up something that I think is really simple but could make a big difference in how residents engage with our local government, and that's communication. I've been attending the council meetings and talking with residents, and one thing I keep hearing is, "I didn't know that was happening." And I think it's an opportunity where we can do better. I'd like to see our agendas and supporting materials posted several days, ideally a week in advance, and then promoted through the borough's social media and other communication channels rather than the day of posting on the website. Because, let's be honest, most residents aren't checking the municipal website every day. They just don't have the capacity to. There are towns right here in our area already doing this. Point Pleasant Beach, for example, posts its council agendas in advance, maintains an easy-to-use online agenda and minute center, and live streams its public meetings. I'd also like to explore live streaming our meetings and providing a virtual way for residents to participate when practical. Not everyone can be at Borough Hall on a Monday night. We have working parents, people caring for children, or aging parents, residents who work evenings, and people who simply just can't get here. If we're asking residents to be engaged in their local government, we need to make it easier for them to do that. And when there's a major issue that will significantly affect our community, let's consider holding

that town hall or community forum before the decisions are made. So, if that agenda and mayor's meeting can happen prior to town hall meetings, that would help with a forum before decisions are made, not after the fact. So, I'm not suggesting anything revolutionary. I'm suggesting we use the tools we already have to communicate better, more information, more opportunities to participate, more residents with a seat at the table, and I think that's something we can all get behind."

Mayor Sabosik: "Thank you for your comments."

Resident: 2117 Foster Road: "Getting back to that first thing, where is lot 36 and what's going to be going on it?"

Mayor Sabosik stated that it is next to the Elks and a house is being built on it.

Resident: 2117 Foster Road: Asked if the Borough of Point Pleasant is still in talks with Verizon as an option for internet/cable provider.

Mayor Sabosik: "They're also in the mix. So, we might end up with three carriers, correct. We might be one of the only towns in the whole state. Like I said, this council has been very intensely working on different companies to come to town. Comcast is a rather interesting company to deal with. I think all of us have had experiences with Comcast. So, bringing other people in, I think, will create a positivity for all of our residents in the future. They can then pick and choose who they feel is a better carrier, which I think we all should have. Personally, I think Optimum will be here second, Verizon will be here third. But that's just my personal opinion."

Resident: 2117 Foster Road: "Also, Regarding the sidewalks. Who is going to be responsible for shoveling the snow off of them? There are a lot of businesses that do not do them."

Mayor Sabosik: "The homeowners and business owners are going to be responsible for clearing their sidewalks. We are trying to develop a program for a higher incidence of compliance."

Resident: 2117 Foster Road: "And also talking sidewalks. How about the Collision Shop across the street from Stop & Shop? They constantly have cars on the sidewalk and into the street, that if you're walking, you can't even walk around them without walking into the road. Maybe you can have the business rent a lot someplace, or even just tell customers they cannot park there."

Mayor Sabosik: "I think a legal action was undertaken recently regarding that. I believe that has already been taken care of."

Resident: 2117 Foster Road: "And then also now regarding ordinances on the bicycles. Has anybody been ticketed on an e-bike?"

A resident yelled out that her daughter was ticketed.

Mayor Sabosik: "Well, Dennis, there's your answer. Unsolicited from the audience."

Resident: 1764 Bay Isle Drive: "I'll keep this quick. I just basically wanted to introduce myself. I'm Mike McGurl, 1764 Bay Isle Drive. I wanted to thank Frank and the council. They have been helping me in trying to get underneath what's going on with the NJNG and the cost that is coming back to the residents who are trying to improve their homes, which obviously improves the town."

Mayor Sabosik: "We have a meeting with them this week."

Resident: 1764 Bay Isle Drive: “ And as I mentioned, I've been working on this for over three months, trying to get this sorted out with NJNG, and the BPU. I talked to Kylie. So, any information you want ahead of your meeting with NJNG, which would help, I would be happy to provide.”

Mayor Sabosik: “I think your emails to all of us have worked tremendously. So, we will try our best to come to a conclusion that could be financially positive for you and other residents.”

Resident: 2117 Foster Road: Mentioned that with the repaving and construction work on route 35 southbound, there are lines that are missing and creating issues for drivers. Asked if we could have the line painted back on the road.

Mayor Sabosik stated that he would bring the issue to the Borough Engineer to rectify.

Seeing no other hands, Mayor Sabosik closed this portion of the meeting.

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Adopt Resolution authorizing Mayor and Council to retire into Executive Session

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council are desirous of retiring into Executive Session to discuss applicable exceptions to the N.J. Open Public Meetings Act; and

WHEREAS, those matters relate to the following:

- 1. Personnel**
- 2. Contractual/Possible Litigation**

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Point Pleasant, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the Mayor and Council shall retire into Executive Session to discuss the Aforesaid matters; and
2. That minutes shall be taken; and
3. That the matters to be discussed will be in all likelihood be known to the Public when and if the necessity for confidentiality no longer exists; and
4. That at the conclusion thereof, the meeting shall again be opened to the public.

MOTION: To Retire into Executive Session: Coulson

SECOND: DePaola

APPROVED: All in favor

Executive Session was closed and back into regular session.

Borough Attorney McGucken stated the following: “At this point, based on the executive session discussions, it would be appropriate if counsel would authorize a motion to authorize Optimum to submit their application to the Board of Public Utilities for a cable franchise in the Borough of Point Pleasant.”

- 1. Authorize Gregory P. McGuckin, Borough Attorney, to submit a letter to the BPU to start the application process with Optimum for cable services.**

MOTION: Approve Authorization

MADE: Furmato

SECOND: Stevenson

Mr. Veni: Absent

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Stevenson: Yes

CARRIES:

- 2. Authorize Gregory P. McGuckin, Borough Attorney, to authorize suit against the Bonding Company for Duga Construction for the DPW roof.**

MOTION: Approve Authorization

MADE: Coulson

SECOND: Archer

Mr. Veni: Absent

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Stevenson: Yes

CARRIES:

MOTION TO ADJOURN

All in Favor.

TRANSCRIBED BY: VERONICA THWING, DEPUTY BOROUGH CLERK

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**ANTOINETTE JONES, RMC, CMR
BOROUGH CLERK**

**ROBERT A. SABOSIK
MAYOR**